

votaries needless to say in the British Parliament. But it is a persuasive not an imperative force and is often excluded from the balanced considerations of practical politics.

With the increasing influence of unofficial propaganda the status of politicians must inevitably decline. They will no longer be figured as the anointed champions of the public : they will be its salaried employees. Across the Atlantic this transformation is almost completed : with us it has begun. In these circumstances the public will not expect great nicety of manners in its representatives or be too curious as to the sincerity of their convictions. so long as they faithfully carry out its mandates. It may not be greatly scandalized if they add indirectly* to their emoluments. In the Houses of Representatives at Washington and Ottawa the standard of morality is lower than in the House of Commons. We need not, however, assume that this laxity of conduct is inevitable. It is hardly to be observed in Australia and New Zealand.

But philanthropy is cold stuff to set before the electorate : at present the issues which it raises would not tempt the great majority of us to walk to the polling station. If it is to awaken any enthusiasm it must be served up with party rivalry to season it. Is it, however, of profit to the State that political issues should be dressed up in meretricious colours in order that men who feel no real interest in public affairs should

be induced
to take a hand in them ? Our true
concern is only
with the electors who wish for
improvement. and
will take trouble to secure it. and
these need no
party allurements to record their
votes. Ws need
not fear that their efforts will be
fruitless. The
comforts and conveniences which we
owe to Town
and County Councils have been
elaborated by
energies, that, outside London, have
not been